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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/944,101	09/04/2001	Hiroshi Saito	040894-5703	1751

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EXAMINER

JACKSON, JAKIEDA R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2626

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/944,101	SAITO, HIROSHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jakieda R. Jackson	2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 8, 2006 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. During the personal interview the Attorney pointed out that Hatano et al. did not teach the proposed amendment (claim 1) of a speech recognition unit comprising extracting means that extracts a dictionary at the highest level of the hierarchy, and a dictionary associates with the narrowing-down condition preset by the user, as the list of queuing words from the plurality of hierarchically stored speech recognition dictionaries, when a recognition process starts (*emphasis added to the commas*). For clarification purposes of the limitation, the Attorney pointed of page 17, paragraph 2 and pages 17-18, paragraph 3, which reads:

The invention is characterized in that in retrieving a speech recognition dictionary having a hierarchical structure, a recognition process is also applied to one or plural institutional name dictionaries set by a user beforehand (dictionaries classified according to a narrowing-down condition and equivalent to a dictionary of hospitals and a dictionary of accommodations in the hierarchical dictionary tree shown in Fig. 3) together with a first narrowing down condition dictionary (a category name dictionary in the hierarchical dictionary tree shown in Fig. 2) at a first hierarchy as an object of recognition.

That is, if a user sets a narrowing-down condition such as a category and an area name respectively frequently by a user beforehand, an institutional name to be a target which is matched with the narrowing-down condition can be retrieved by one vocalization without troublesome processing that hierarchical structure is sequentially followed and a narrowing-down condition is determined. As a narrowing-down condition is also simultaneously an object of recognition, even an institutional name

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which is not matched with the narrowing-down condition set before hand can be retrieved according to a conventional type procedure that hierarchical structure is sequentially followed and a narrowing-down condition is determined.

According to the claimed limitation Hatano et al. teaches that the extracting means extracts a dictionary at the highest level of the hierarchy (zeroth hierarchy; figure 2A, element 30 with column 9, paragraph 0043-0044), and a dictionary associated with the narrowing-down condition (narrows down by going through the different hierarchies; figure 2A with column 9, paragraph 0043-0050) preset by the user (plural kinds of place names or facility names may be selected and registered in advance (column 8, paragraph 0038), as the list of queuing words from the plurality of hierarchically stored speech recognition dictionaries (a dictionary which shows the words in order to recognize a voice inputted; column 11, paragraph 0064), when a recognition process starts (begins just after powered on; column 9, paragraph 0043).

The USPTO has fully considered the arguments presented, but they are not persuasive.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. **Claims 12-17** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hatano et al. (EP 0 935 123 A2), hereinafter referenced as Hatano.

Regarding **claims 12, 16 and 17**, Hatano discloses a speech recognition unit and method, comprising:

a plurality of hierarchically stored speech recognition dictionaries (figure 2A);
extracting means for extracting the contents of specific dictionaries as a list of queuing words (plural kinds of place names or facility names which are frequently set as destination spot may be selected and registered in advance; column 8, lines 46-51);

storage means for temporarily storing the extracted list of queuing words (column 8, lines 46-54);

recognition means for recognizing an input voice command (spoken word is inputted) by comparing the input voice command and the list of queuing words stored in the storage means and the speech recognition characterized by (column 8, lines 20-27);

setting means for permitting a user to preset a narrowing-down condition (column 8, paragraphs 0038-0039 and column 9, paragraphs 0043-0050, and wherein

extracting means extracts a dictionary at the highest level of the hierarchy (zeroth hierarchy; figure 2A, element 30 with column 9, paragraph 0043-0044), and a dictionary associated with the narrowing-down condition (narrows down by going through the different hierarchies; figure 2A with column 9, paragraph 0043-0050) preset by the user (plural kinds of place names or facility names may be selected and registered in advance (column 8, paragraph 0038), as the list of queuing words from the plurality of hierarchically stored speech recognition dictionaries (a dictionary which shows the words in order to recognize a voice inputted; column 11, paragraph 0064), when a recognition process starts (begins just after powered on; column 9, paragraph 0043).

Regarding **claim 13**, Hatano discloses the speech recognition unit and method wherein the extracting means extracts from the plurality of hierarchically stored speech recognition dictionaries, a lower-order hierarchical dictionary (figure 2A) used for recognition by the recognition means each time the recognition of the recognition means is performed, until a recognition result of the recognition means becomes an institutional name (column 9, paragraphs 0020-0051).

Regarding **claim 14**, Hatano discloses the speech recognition unit and method wherein the plurality of speech recognition dictionaries comprises;

a classification dictionary storing classification names of institutions (figure 2A, element 32 with column 8, lines 46-51); and

an institution dictionary storing names of institutions (amusement parks, hospital, resort, etc.) which belong to respective classification of institutions (figure 2A, elements 61-63 with column 12, lines 25-33).

Regarding **claim 15**, Hatano discloses a speech recognition unit and method wherein the plurality of speech recognition dictionaries comprises:

an area dictionary storing area names (city; figure 2A, element 53); and

an institution dictionary storing the names of institutions existing in respective areas (figure 2A, elements 64-66 with column 11, lines 30-36).

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jakieda R. Jackson whose telephone number is 571.272.7619. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 571.272.7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JRJ
May 16, 2006


DAVID HUDSPETH
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